

**California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

**2002 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Riverside (West)

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Kerri Kisko

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* Air Photo USA  
*date:* February 2002  
*scale:* 2 foot resolution  
*film type:* true color  
*coverage gaps:* none  
*additional imagery:* none

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2002 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

*cities:* Corona, Moreno Valley, Riverside  
*county:*  
*others:*

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:*

Welcome to El Modeno Gardens: <http://elmodenogardens.com>  
Welcome to Riverside County, California: [www.co.riverside.ca.us](http://www.co.riverside.ca.us)  
Yahoo Yellow Pages: <http://yp.yahoo.com>

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

SWIS landfill/waste facility reference file: SWIS.dgn

**2000-2002 CHANGES\*:** *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

**Note:** This is the first digital update for Riverside County. Using improved digital resources, more accurate boundaries were drawn throughout the county. Therefore, adjustments were made in all categories throughout the county. The changes listed below are only representative of the total number of actual

**changes.**

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

There were 45 changes of irrigated farmland to urban land this update. The majority of these changes occurred in the northwestern portion of the county, particularly in the Corona/Riverside area. On the Corona North quad, the new Amberhill Farms housing community (≈25 acres) was added, as well as expansions to the Corona Valley and Providence Ranch housing communities totaling approximately 250 acres. On the Corona South quad a mixture of homes and commercial buildings were added, most notably the new housing communities of Autumnwood (≈35 acres), Montecito Ranch (≈140 acres), and Sterling Green (≈130 acres), the Trilogy at Glen Ivy golf course community (≈310 acres), the new Von's shopping center (≈20 acres), and the new Wal-Mart (≈20 acres). The new housing development of Rancho Valencia (≈75 acres) was added and the Orange Crest housing community was expanded by approximately 310 acres on the Riverside East quad. On the Lake Matthews quad the new housing development of Victoria Grove (≈250 acres) was added.

Throughout the rest of the county the urbanization of irrigated farmland was less intense. On the Guasti quad the Ingram Micro distribution center (≈30 acres) and the Exel Warehouse 2 (≈40 acres) were added. The Aurora manufacturing facility (≈20 acres) was added on the Perris quad. The Menifee Lakes Country Club was expanded by approximately 70 acres on the Romoland quad and the Vista del Lago High School (≈35 acres) was added on the Sunnymead quad.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

There were 130 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to urban land this update. The majority of these changes occurred in the Murrieta/Temecula area. Most of the change was in the form of new housing communities. The housing communities of Butterfield (≈70 acres) and Monet (≈95 acres) were added on the Bachelor Mountain quad.

On the Murrieta quad the Bear Creek (≈200 acres), Eagle Glen Apartments (≈35 acres), Four Seasons (≈220 acres), Heritage Traditions (≈65 acres), High Pointe (≈90 acres), Miranda (≈50 acres), Pacific Oaks (≈50 acres), Parkside Estates (≈50 acres), and Winchester (≈345 acres) housing developments were added. On the Pechanga quad the housing community of Auberry Place (≈95 acres) was added and the community of Paseo del Sol (≈85 acres) was expanded. The Silver Creek Ranch (≈35 acres) and Hidden Creek (≈15 acres) housing developments were added on the Wildomar quad. A few businesses were also added in this area. The Oak Creek Shopping Center and Madison Shopping Center, approximately 20 acres each, were added on the Murrieta quad. On the Pechanga quad the Ralph's Marketplace shopping center (≈15 acres) was noted. The Cross Creek Golf Course (≈180 acres) was added on the Temecula quad.

Large changes throughout the rest of the county include the expansion of the Horsethief Canyon Ranch housing community by approximately 45 acres on the Alberhill quad, the Canyon Hills housing development (≈90 acres) on the Lake Elsinore quad, the Painted Hills housing community (≈70 acres) and Glen Ivy Hot Springs and Spa (≈20 acres) on the Lake Mathews quad, the Amberstone housing development (≈145 acres) on

the Riverside East quad, the expansion of the Sun City housing community by approximately 115 acres on the Romoland quad, and the Gavilan Springs housing community (≈190 acres) on the Steele Peak quad.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

There were 113 conversions of prime, statewide, or unique farmland to farmland of local importance or grazing land this update. The majority of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three or more update cycles. These changes were scattered throughout the county. Large conversions of 100 acres or more occurred on the Guasti (1), Sunnymead (1), Lake Mathews (3), Steele Peak (2), Lakeview (4), Romoland (1), and Winchester (2) quads. A few changes (8) were due to new or expanded areas of confined livestock. These changes were relatively small and occurred throughout the county.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 45 conversions of irrigated farmland to other land this update. The majority of these changes were due to the fallowing of unique farmland in parcels of less than 40 acres. Unique farmland is not part of the definition for farmland of local importance. The rest of the changes were due to ranchettes, agricultural staging areas, and mining activities.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

There were 66 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to irrigated farmland this update. These changes were scattered throughout the county and primarily were in the form of row crops, orchards, nurseries, or vineyards. The most notable changes include an approximately 435-acre parcel of row crops on the Winchester quad, an approximately 390-acre parcel of row crops on the Romoland quad, and the approximately 80-acre El Modeno Gardens nursery on the Lake Mathews quad.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2002.*

Local, Grazing to Other Land: There were 96 conversions. The majority of these changes were due to the addition of low-density housing (ranchettes). Other changes also included gravel mining, equestrian centers, and rural commercial. One change of note was the low-density development of Gavilan Estates (≈80 acres) on the Steele Peak quad.

Local to Grazing Land: There were 8 conversions. These changes were all the result of identifying unique soils mapped as Local. Unique soils do not qualify for the Farmland of Local Importance definition.

Other Land to Local: There were 7 conversions. These changes were due to the identification of prime and statewide soils and newly identified poultry facilities.

Prime, Statewide to Unique: There were 17 conversions. The majority (14) of these changes were due to the replacement of irrigated farmland with container nurseries (nurseries with potted plants). These changes were concentrated in and near the City of

Riverside. A couple changes of note are the new A & F Growers nursery (≈120 acres) and the Milfields nursery (≈60 acres) on the Riverside West quad. The other changes were due to soil unit corrections.

Urban to Prime, Statewide, Unique: There were 5 conversions. These changes were due to the identification of small agricultural plots (20 acres or less) throughout the county.

**PROBLEM AREAS:** *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?*

There were a lot of new container nurseries being added near the City of Riverside in 2002. Watch for more of these in the future.

**LABOR ESTIMATE:** *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

*photo interpretation, start date:* Nov. 6, 2002

*photo interpretation, number of days:* 11

*ground truthing dates:* Dec. 9-13, 2002

*# days for map compilation and clean up:* 19

\* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:*

[www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)